

National Citizen Science programme in Serbia

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Center for the Promotion of Science | Serbia

Sustaining Responsible Research and Innovation in the Western Balkans
WBC-RRI.NET final conference
Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Skopje
February 9, 2024



CENTER FOR
THE
PROMOTION
OF SCIENCE

Center for the Promotion of Science (CPN)



- ❖ Serbia's public institution, in the system of the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Technological Development
- ❖ Founded after the Law on Scientific Research in 2010
- ❖ Part of the strategic development and investment plan in science and research
- ❖ Facilitating dialogue between **science and society**
- ❖ Supporting knowledge based economy and innovation
- ❖ Bringing together diverse social groups and actors
- ❖ Advocating for **science-based public policy**
- ❖ Center of **science communication, culture & literacy**
- ❖ Financial support for the **science promotion, citizen science & art-science** projects

Citizen Science programme in Serbia



- ❖ Proposed and formulated by the CPN, by its previous experience
- ❖ Formally introduced in the Action Plan 2021-23 of the Strategy of Scientific and Technological Development of Serbia, which was adopted in mid 2021
- ❖ Foreseen annual budget in the Action plan: 15 million RSD, starting from 2022
- ❖ Approved and budgeted for the first time in 2023
- ❖ First call: autumn 2023
- ❖ Six projects funded after the initial call, starting from January 2024
- ❖ Duration of projects: 2 years
- ❖ The initial call was followed by a campaign within research community and at all public universities
- ❖ Terminological challenge in Serbian: "Građanska nauka" vs. "Građanska naučna istraživanja" vs. "Volonterska nauka"



Република Србија

МИНИСТАРСТВО НАУКЕ,

ТЕХНОЛОШКОГ РАЗВОЈА И ИНОВАЦИЈА



Citizen Science programme in Serbia: Goals



- ❖ **Enhance Collaboration:** Encourage collaborative partnerships between researchers and citizens to tackle societal challenges
- ❖ **Acknowledge Citizen's Role:** Recognize citizens' pivotal role in scientific research, advocating active involvement and inclusiveness
- ❖ **Foster Innovation:** Support projects leveraging participatory approaches and technology to address social challenges innovatively
- ❖ **Emphasise Social Impact:** Align projects with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recognising citizens' contributions to positive societal changes

Citizen Science programme in Serbia: Open Call



- ❖ English only, online, through the CPN's platform
- ❖ The application's obligatory parts:
 - clear presentation of research goals
 - research plan
 - plan for the inclusion of citizens
 - participatory methodology
 - project timeline within 24 months
 - budget plan (within the limit of 4 million RSD (approx. 35,000€))
- ❖ International evaluation board
- ❖ Evaluation criteria:
 - idea and the team
 - impact
 - community
 - implementation and budget
- +
- ECSA's 10 CS principles
- SDGs
- Open Science
- national GDPR regulation



Citizen Science programme in Serbia: Results



127 project proposals submitted!

- ❖ 70 faculties and research institutes
- ❖ 80+ civil society organisations (CSOs)
- ❖ 15 local authorities and public companies
- ❖ 30 schools and kindergartens
- ❖ 10 representatives of business and industry
- ❖ 4 libraries and museums

6 funded projects

possible extension of the list – proposal is given to the Ministry

astronomy

archeology

cultural
heritage

environmental
protection

biodiversity

sustainability

psychology

linguistics

education and
pedagogy

medicine and
public health

microbiology

agriculture

AI

Citizen Science programme in Serbia: 6 awarded projects



1) Ecosystem Services Assessment of Ribnica Gorge (Western Serbia) through Citizen Science

*Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade

2) Diabetic Chronic Wounds Prevention and Eradication - Patients Come to the Rescue

*Institute for Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering, University of Belgrade

3) Cultivating Soil Connectivity: Empowering Farmers and Youth Community as Citizen Scientists to Monitor Soil Health and Biodiversity

*BioSense Institute, University of Novi Sad

4) Heritage of Emancipation: Empowering Roma Women through Networks of Solidarity (HEROINES)

*The Ethnographic Institute of SANU

5) Citizen Co-Creation: Shaping a Sustainable Future of Wastewater Treatment in Serbia by Pioneering Energy-Neutral & Zero-Waste Approach

*Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Belgrade

6) Stay or Leave – Spotlight on Migration Intentions In The rUral areas (RurSITU)

*Geographical Institute "Jovan Cvijić", SANU



2024: M³ & art+science



M³ 2024: bioinformatics

- ❖ Science Club Novi Sad, Cultural Station "Svilara" and other venues in Novi Sad
- ❖ May 2024



art+science 2024: on humans, tech and nature

- ❖ Botanical Garden Belgrade
- ❖ (end of) September – October 2024





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Thank you for your attention!

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